Reviewer’s report

Title: The long-term care in Italy: an ecological study on the relationship between supply and health needs of elderly

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Reviewer: Yoshiharu Fukuda

Reviewer’s report:

This study elucidated differences in socio-demographic characteristic among small geographic areas in relation to combination of long term care demand and supply. It dealt with important topic and analyzed various indicators with suitable statistics methods. However, I think the paper is lacking for implications to health policy and international interests. Thus, my recommendation is that the authors should submit the paper to domestic journals or largely revise it.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper lucked implication for public health and interests for international readers of the journal. The authors should clearly mention “What’s new?” and “So what?” In addition, the Discuss and Conclusion was not based on the results of this study.

Minor Essential Revisions

In the Introductions part, some basic information of health policy should be added for international readers: e.g., system of long term care (not in the Additional file) and socioeconomic gaps between northern and southern parts.

Line 26, P 10 to line 11, P12: This part should be summarized in a table.

Line 11, P 13: social network (IN=103.1) did not show statistical significant. This suggestion is applied to the Abstract.

Table 1: The cells should show three groups rather than such as LL, LM, and LH.

Figure 3: One unit (central part) was not included any group.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.